

What is claimed is:

1. ~~A material comprising:~~

~~PTFE having a node and fibril microstructure; and
a surface having a number of node clusters and gnarled nodes
situated between the node clusters.~~

2. ~~A material comprising:~~

~~PTFE having a node and fibril microstructure;
a textured pattern having multiple ridges and valley surfaces;
the ridges comprised of node clusters; and
the valley surfaces having gnarled nodes protruding therefrom.~~

3. ~~A material according to claim 2 wherein~~

~~at least one gnarled node has a protruding length measured from
a valley surface;
the gnarled node is adjacent to a ridge having a height;
the gnarled node protruding length is greater than the height of
the adjacent ridge; and
the gnarled node is substantially devoid of fibrils along the
protruding length.~~

4. ~~A material according to claim 2 wherein~~

~~a gnarled node has a longitudinal axis and a protruding length
measured from the valley surface;
the longitudinal axis has at least two angular deflection points;
and
the gnarled node is substantially devoid of fibrils along the
protruding length.~~

12/ 5. ~~A material according to claim 2 wherein the multiple ridges are
substantially parallel to each other.~~

13/ 6. ~~A material according to claim 2 wherein~~

~~the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
one opposing surface has multiple ridges and valleys.~~

14/ 7. ~~A material according to claim 2 wherein~~

~~the material is a sheet having two opposing surfaces; and
two opposing surfaces have multiple ridges and valleys.~~

8. ~~A process for modifying a material surface, comprising the steps of:~~

~~a) providing an expanded PTFE material having a surface
comprised of nodes and fibrils, the fibrils having lengths; and~~

4 b) exposing the expanded PTFE surface to a laser beam to
5 remove nodes and alter fibril lengths to form node clusters and gnarled nodes.

1 9. An article having at least one surface treated in accordance with the
2 process of claim 8.

3 ~~10. A material comprising:~~

4 at least one node having a protruding length measured from a
5 valley surface;

6 the at least one node being adjacent to a ridge having a height;

7 and

8 the node protruding length being greater than the height of the
9 adjacent ridge.

1 11. A material according to claim 10 wherein

2 the at least one node is substantially devoid of fibrils along the
3 protruding length.